

Seven Steps to Organic Certification

1. **Contact the WSDA Organic Food Program.** We will send you an application packet and Organic Certification Guide. Or you can download the application and guide from our Web site:
<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic>
2. **Read the WSDA Certification Guide.** The guide will provide answers to commonly asked questions about organic certification.
3. **Complete and submit the application forms with the appropriate fee.**
4. **Application review and approval.** We will review your application to ensure it complies with National Organic Standards.
5. **Organic food inspection.** An inspection of your business will occur.
6. **Inspection report review.** We will review your inspection report to ensure that your business complies with National Organic Standards.
7. **Certification status notification.** You will be notified of the organic status of your business.



Other Resources for Organic Livestock Producers

The Appropriate Technology Transfer to Rural Areas (ATTRA) offers a wide variety of publications and information regarding organic livestock production. Many publications can be downloaded from the internet or ordered from the website:

<http://attra.ncat.org/>

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Do you need this publication in an alternate format?
Contact the WSDA Receptionist at (360) 902-1976.

Organic Livestock Production



WSDA

Organic Food Program



What are organic feed requirements?

National Organic Standards require that organic livestock be given feed that has been produced in accordance with organic crop production standards.

Information pertaining to producers and handlers of organic feed can be found at the following addresses:

www.ams.usda.gov/nop/ProdHandlers/FeedProducers.html

and

www.agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/FoodProducers.htm#Certified



What are organic livestock standards?

National Organic Program (NOP) sections 205.236-205.239 outline organic livestock standards. The standards include criteria for the origin of livestock, livestock feed, livestock health care, and livestock living conditions. Materials approved for use in organic livestock production are provided in NOP sections 205.603 and 205.604.

In order to verify compliance with organic livestock standards, records of the following must be maintained:

- ☛ Medications administered (dates, doses, and sources).
- ☛ Feed bought or raised and fed (receipts, sources, organic certificates, labels).
- ☛ Feed supplements (receipts, labels, sources, dates and quantity administered).
- ☛ The weight of slaughter animals at slaughter or hanging carcass weight.
- ☛ Purchase and sales records for livestock and livestock products (dates, weights, quantities, description).
- ☛ All materials used in the on-site production of crops for feed (receipts, source, dates and quantity applied).
- ☛ Records of finished product sales.

What are organic slaughter requirements?

National Organic Program standard 205.100 requires that each production or handling operation that produces or handles crops, livestock, livestock products or other agricultural products that are to be sold as “organic” must be certified. For slaughter stock, all processing, including the slaughter facility as well as the cut and wrap facility must be certified organic.

Prior to sending your animal for slaughter, please obtain a current organic food certificate from your slaughter facility. You must have a copy of this certificate available at the time of your inspection.

How can I transition my livestock to organic?

Dairy One-Year Herd Conversion:

Feed: Must be fed 100% organic feed for one year.

Antibiotics: Prohibited for 1 year prior to milking. After conversion, they are prohibited.

Hormones: Except for ocytocin, they are prohibited for 1 year prior to milking and after certification.

Vaccines: May use approved vaccines and biologics as needed.

Pasture: Must have access to pasture.

Poultry (Meat and Eggs):

Feed: Must be fed 100% organic feed from the second day of life.

Antibiotics: Prohibited.

Hormones: Prohibited.

Vaccines: May use approved vaccines and biologics as needed.

Living Conditions: Must have access to the outdoors.



Slaughter Stock (Beef, Dairy, Hogs, Sheep, etc.):

Feed: Must be fed 100% organic feed from the last third of gestation.

Antibiotics: Prohibited.

Hormones: Prohibited except for oxytocin

Vaccines: May use approved vaccines and biologics as needed.

Pasture Requirements: Must have access to the outdoors. Organic pasture is required for ruminant livestock.

